Housing projects in Gujarat with foreign assistance

1870. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether housing projects have since been launched with foreign assistance in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the manner in which such assistance is being utilised;

(c) the number of houses built so far under construction together with locations thereof;

(d) what system has been adopted in allotment process of houses under construction; and

(e) the total number of houses proposed to be constructed in the State under these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Only one.

(b) to (e) Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) a private sector housing finance institution, has received a credit from KfW, Germany and has financed 66 houses for weavers belonging to Economically Weaker Section at Rampur in Gujarat through the Bhal Nalkhanta Khadi Gramodyog Mandal.

Foreign help for improvement of towns

1871. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Overseas Development Association of England has offered help for improvement of towns in the country;

(b) how many proposals have been forwarded for ODA assistance; and

(c) how many works are in progress at the moment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Nine projects have been forwarded to the Overseas Development Administration (ODA-UK). Out of these, works are in progress in seven projects which have so far been approved.

Availability of houses

1872. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the gap between demand and availability of houses in the country;

(b) the efforts being made by Government to provide houses at cheaper rates to weaker sections; and

(c) the details of various housing schemes under operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) As per the estimates of National Buildings Organisation, housing shortage as on 1.3.1993 has been estimated to be 33 million dwelling units (21.7 million in rural areas and 11.3 million in the urban areas).

(b) Housing being a State subject, State Governments are responsible for formulating and implementing all social housing schemes, including those for EWS households. The Central Government has supplemented the efforts of State Governments by launching various Central and Centrally Sponsored schemes for facilitating houses at cheaper rates.

To bring down the cost of housing, steps have been taken through various R&D Organisations to develop cost effective and innovative building materials and technology by utilisation of industrial and agricultural